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TRAINING OF A DIPLOMAT.

Practical Study for the Foreign Embassy Consists of Knowledge of French Language.

The practical study of the diplomat consists of languages, above all French, the diplomatic language, which he must master as he knows his own tongue, says Pearson's. International law, political economy and commerce he must master to the point of being an expert. The laws of his own country he must know, as well as the chief laws of all the other big countries with which he may be brought into close relation. In short, polish and study and knowledge are the requisites of the foreign diplomat. And when he has mastered a score or more of intricate studies and has them at his fingers' ends, just as the civil engineer knows his calculus, then the youngster ventures forth as an attache and is advanced slowly from less important stations to more important ones, until, after vast experience, he is appointed to a post of more or less weight, where he can work his way up from capital to capital and from court to court until his name figures among the great diplomats of the times. Such is the training of these professionals who are called upon to meet the first good man who has standing, wealth and position, and whom the president honors, whether he has experience or none, to represent the great American nation. Power versus persuasion, this is the situation engendered between two such diametrically opposite men.

One of the most serious handicaps of the American diplomatic service, that is in the eyes of the foreign expert, is that the service includes no women. In the great diplomatic households of European governments the woman plays a role second only to that of her lord and master. It is through the women of his household, especially if they be beautiful, that the diplomat may hope to fathom the hand of an adversary, or may make known that which he himself is not in a position to divulge. It is these women who foster the social end of the game, who are the pivot around which the giant wheel revolves, and who constitute the nucleus about which the various diplomats and their numerous attaches gather at frequent intervals, forming, as it were, a world family party.

FRENCH WOMAN CONSCRIPT

Member of Fair Sex Is Called Upon to Report for Duty by Officers of Country's Infantry.

Women soldiers there have been before now who won fame and honor in their day, but a woman conscript is, it may be supposed, something of a novelty. She has just made an ephemeral appearance at the French village of Mazelle, in the Correz, where a young woman, named Francoise Bernard, a few days since received formal order directing her to report herself for service with the Fourteenth infantry, stationed at Brive. Though a little surprised, Francoise consulted the village mayor, and, as he advised her to report herself, the plucky girl made no more fuss about it, but set out to do so. At the village station she had no difficulty in getting her ticket at one fourth the usual fare, but on reaching Brive nothing less than production of her mobilization order saved her from being arrested for fraudulent traveling. Her difficulties culminated on presenting herself at the barracks. The sergeant of the guard obstinately refused to allow her to pass inside, but having gone so far she had no mind to be balked of her uniform, and it required a long parley to persuade her to take steps with the police for having her "civil state" placed on a more accurate footing.

Mouse Hunt in Church.

A recent service at Zion chapel, Trowbridge, was interrupted by a mouse running along the front of the pulpit. The preacher stopped until the excitement of the congregation had subsided and the mouse had been captured.

WHIPS IN THE PARLIAMENT

This Office Entails Neat Salary and Duty Is to Bring Party Together at the Crucial Time.

When private affairs or other matters make it impossible for our lawmakers to attend to their duties in house or senate a "pair" is made out with a member of the opposition and filed with the clerk. This acts to preserve the balance of the majority, since one vote from each side is taken away. The matter is entirely one of personal arrangement, and the clerk's only duty is to record the fact.

In parliament there is an official to prepare these pairs and to act as "whip" for his party, the place carrying with it a salary of \$10,000 as patronage secretary.

The parliamentary whip is something more than an arranger of pairs, however, for his chief duty lies in seeing that all members of his party are present when there is likely to be any need of their vote, and for this purpose he sends out, through his assistants, notices in which the importance of the events to come is shown by the number of underscored lines used.

A one line whip, wherein the subject of debate and other information are underscored but once, is not regarded as being particularly pressing, but a two-line whip commands attention, and a three-line whip means that the recipient who absents himself is liable to find himself in disfavor with this party. Four lines are used only in announcing great events, and no one who receives the occasional five-line whip would think of remaining away unless ill in bed.

In parliament pairing is a matter arranged by the whips of the opposing parties and not by those who seek to escape their duties. At times there are humorous mistakes made as each seeks to pair off some one who would in any event remain away. The most notable case was one wherein a man abed with a broken leg was paired with a member who had just died, each whip gloating over his cleverness until the facts came to light.

HOW PUSH BALL IS PLAYED

Mammoth Sphere Six Feet in Diameter Is Used—Is Inflated with Compressed Air.

Push ball is played on a grid-ironed field or floor 120 yards long by 50 wide, with goal posts at either end 20 feet apart and connected by a cross bar seven feet from the ground, says the National Magazine. The mammoth ball, almost globular in shape, should measure six feet in diameter and weigh between 46 and 50 pounds. It is usually inflated with compressed air. The ball is placed in the middle of the field and the teams line up as follows: Five forwards on the 40-yard line, two left and two right wings on the 20-yard line and two goal keepers on the goal line—11 men each. At the sound of the referee's whistle both sides plunge at full speed upon the ball. And then the fun begins. If the ball is caught fairly between the two human battering rams there is a rebound from its elastic sides that sends the players sprawling like tenpins. It does not take long, however, for the entire 22 men to get around the sphere, put their shoulders to the wheel, so to speak, and push for every ounce of energy in them. The heavier, stronger team will, of course, have the advantage, but some trick plays have been invented which lend variety to the game and redeem it from being a featureless contest of mere brawn and muscle.

That Was Enough.

For years they had been the best of friends, but a moment of absent-mindedness made them deadly and irreconcilable enemies.

It was Mrs. Hawkins' fault. Mrs. Brumley had been ill for a month, and was telling her friend all about it.

"Yes, Mrs. Hawkins," she said, "I have been very ill. They were afraid of my losing my mind."

"O, and did you, Mrs. Brumley?" asked Mrs. Hawkins, with cordial interest.—Stray Stories.

On the Surface.

If a woman could convince herself that her married life is as happy as she tries to make others believe it is things all around would be more joyful.

THE BIRTHRATE IN CANADA

Large Number of Offspring to French There Excites Comment Among Scientific Authorities.

The large birthrate of French Canadians is receiving comment on account of the recent repeal of the law in which the province of Quebec gave 100 acres of forest land to each man who had 12 children, says American Medicine. The desire to be more populous has led the French Canadian government into several schemes, mostly to facilitate immigration, although, curiously enough, the law of population has long been out of Canada into the United States, as though the north were overpopulated. It was this exodus which alarmed the Quebec authorities, who thereupon revived their traditional policy to stimulate the birthrate by rewarding a large family, actuated no doubt by a desire to make this part of Canada solidly French. It has been learned that the land grant was of no use to the father of such a large family, as he was anchored to his own farm and could not break a new one in the wilderness. The grants were consequently sold to lumber companies at ridiculously small rates, and the exodus of the younger element continues. It is now openly stated that it is no longer possible to support these large families. It was an easy matter formerly, for a large farm could be divided among the children, but later subdivisions have made the farms too small. Migrations were necessary, and the easiest way was toward the south, to get employment in the factories. A large birthrate, then, is no longer of use to Canada, and is, indeed, rapidly diminishing. It is also stated that the deathrate among the children has been inordinate, because it is not possible, nowadays, to give the proper care and attention to the infants, so that no matter what the number born it will never be possible to rear as many in one family as formerly. It is now recognized that Canada will not suffer for population if the present reduction of the birthrate does continue—her emigration will be less. Indeed, it is also recognized that density of population depends solely upon the ability to make a living, and the only way to increase it is to stimulate the productivity of a country—the present Canadian policy. He who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before, does more than he who brings infants into the world but cannot feed them.

BRAIN SIZE MEANINGLESS.

Large Skull and Heavy Batch of Gray Matter Are Not Indications of Intellectual Growth, Says Expert.

Two of the most eminent anthropologists of Germany, Profs. Loewenfeld and Eyerich, have been examining into the prevailing belief that a large skull and heavy brain are indications of superior intellectual power, and find absolutely nothing in support of this tradition. They have based their investigations on careful studies of 935 soldiers of the ordinary class, 300 one-year volunteers, gentlemen's sons of superior education, 312 pupils of national schools and 207 examinations of brains of the dead. There are weakly endowed natures with fine brain capacity; on the other hand, some of the brightest of the one-year volunteers had heads rather less than the normal size. No matter what way they went to work to get results in favor of the earlier impressions, they were confronted with defeat. No such rule can be said to exist. It is as irregular and as unscientific to say that a big brained or big-headed man is intellectual as to say that he is tall or short or addicted to any particular habit.

Couldn't Be.

A city man was showing a country cousin through the Metropolitan museum. "See that bunch of old Egyptian coins over there, Reub?" he said, pointing at one of the showcases; "well, every one of those coins is over 3,000 years old."

"Quit yer kiddin'," retorted the countryman. "Why, it's only 1905 now!"

We May Think.

A virtue that we don't possess isn't worth cultivating.—N. Y. Times.

STAGE REALISM IS NOT NEW

Many Plays Have Been Written with Animals as the Principal Figures.

The introduction of a flock of sheep into a stage spectacle seems from newspaper comment to have given the impression that livestock is new on the stage. This, of course, is wide of the mark. A tragedy the other day had its inception in a play written round four lions and a lioness which used to play nights at Astley's. There was an opera which revolved around a Spanish bull, until one night the latter demolished the mock arena on the stage and stamped the whole company. A real Derby winner used each night to rein his triumph before the footlights, and plays such as "The Still Alarm" and "Ben-Hur" owed much of their success to their quadrupeds.

The most realistic scene of modern days was staged in Paris. The story comes from Herr Seeth, the principal player in it. Six of his lions were turned into the arena, with thirteen to which he was a stranger. Lay figures, about which horseflesh was concealed, were thrown in, and these the lions rent, as the forerent rent the early Christians in the arenas of Rome. At the psychological moment Seeth entered to interrupt the feast and subdue the feasters. The moment the door closed behind him he tripped, and as he fell a lion seized him by the thigh. The others followed—all save one, the patriarch of his own troupe. This fought for him. The others wrestled and fought and tore over his body, while the pioneer uninterruptedly crunched his leg. A blow with a crowbar through the throat of this brute killed him, and in the resultant pause attendants dragged Seeth out in a horrible plight. He was nine months in a hospital, and that scene never again was staged.

HIS MISSION A HIGH ONE.

Dime Museum Freak Was Fasting in Order That He Might Break Up the Criminal Trusts.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said the lecturer at the dime museum, according to the Chicago Tribune, "I call your particular attention to the cadaverous specimen of the human family now on the platform before you. This, ladies and gentlemen, is no ordinary human skeleton. He is not a freak in any sense of the term. He is a victim, if I may use the term, of a high and noble purpose. Animated by a sincere desire to benefit his fellow beings, this man, whose name is Ira Grettus Tate, is undertaking to fast for 40 days, and is now in the thirty-second day of his self-imposed task.

"He is not doing this in order to demonstrate that it can be done. It has been done before. Neither is he doing it for notoriety or patty gain. It was with extreme reluctance that he consented to place himself on exhibition. He is undergoing this voluntary task, ladies and gentlemen, solely for the purpose of doing all that one man can do to break up the infamous combinations, from the beef trust down to the breakfast food trust, that are enriching themselves at the expense of the people. Pausing a moment in order that those who wish to purchase his portrait for the purpose of helping along a good cause may have an opportunity of doing so . . . we will pass to the next platform, which is occupied by Mme. Addie Peaux, the fattest woman on earth."

Cheap Postage Stamps.

Postage stamps at Villagracia are so moderate in price that for the convenience of the lower classes they are being sold at 40 a penny. The only difficulty is that they cover a letter so completely that if it is desired to put on the address a second letter has to be posted to hold the remainder of the stamps.

Walked 160,000 Miles.

Paul Hennel, who for 49 years was letter carrier between Swardston, Norfolk, and East Carleton, died recently at Swardston. He was 89 years old, had never been off duty for a single day, and had walked 160,000 miles in the performance of his duties.

WHAT MAKES LIGHTNING? IRVING WEPT FOR FRIEND.

A Thing We Do Not Understand as Well as We Thought—Plan for Weather Bureau. The Great Actor the Embodiment of Grief at Poet Alfred Tennyson's Burial.

We are apt to believe greatly in the progress made in electrical research, and to joy in our ability to handle the strange forces of nature—until a "thunder storm" wrecks a house with a bolt whose "spark gap" is a thousand feet, and the voltage of which is estimated at 100,000,000. The lightning rod, to all intents and purposes, is today the identical instrument invented by Franklin. The Electrical World publishes the following on the subject: "We have rather come to the opinion that the chief trouble with the lightning arrester question is still lack of knowledge regarding the thing which is to be arrested. We all as sume, and probably correctly, that lightning, being in the nature of a condensed discharge, is essentially oscillatory in its nature. The virtual capacity involved and hence the frequency is an unknown quantity, like the potential concerned in the discharge. It is certain that lightning flashes sweep over very great distances ranging from a few hundred feet up to several thousand, but the voltage from which these prodigious striking distances result cannot yet be evaluated.

"Present devices for the protection of apparatus and lines against lightning are based on the conception of lightning as a rapid oscillatory discharge. It is possible, however, that some lightning at least may have a pretty slow period, or may be damped into virtually a single rush, of a sort which cannot readily be choked back. Certainly lightning is of an immensely variable character, so that generalizations regarding it are altogether unsafe. The trouble with the experimental study of lightning is the comparative rarity of lightning itself at any one station, a rarity that for practical purposes is increased nearly three-fold by the shortness during the lightning season, of the hours of darkness during which a photographic method could be applied. It strikes us that the damage done annually by lightning is sufficient to justify the weather bureau in undertaking some such systematic investigation of the subject as might lead to better preventive measures. There is just the sort of persistent attention required that it is extremely difficult to obtain save with professional observers who can be on the watch without being called off by other duties. With work intelligently distributed among the various stations a few years would see the accumulation of a great deal of valuable information without any very great expense. If the work led to the prevention of even a small percentage of the damage annually done by lightning it would pay merely as a matter of business. It is particularly a matter for the government to take up on account of the public nature of the service, and the comparatively small opportunities of any single private observer or group of observers."

SCANDALS ON THE CONGO.

How Women and Children Are Seized as Security for Taxes.

The Matin has just published extracts from a report sent to the minister for the colonies from Brazzaville, in which M. De Brazza asserted that the means employed for the collecting of the taxes was to seize and detain the women and children. Out of 58 women and ten children held at Cangu, 45 women and two children died in five weeks. This, he asserted, was not an isolated case. Here are some of the extracts of the reports of M. De Brazza upon the subject:

"The seizure of women in the native villages, has on the contrary, been in general use as a means of securing carriers on the route from Fort Possel to Fort Crampel, not to speak of the region which I have visited personally. In the same district at the present moment it is still considered the natural accompaniment of all measures of repression. Indeed, at the time when the news of the dispatch of my mission to the Congo reached Fort Sibut, 119 women had just arrived there as the result of a punitive expedition into the Haute Komati, five days' march from the fort.

"When the minister heard through private letters of the rising in the Gabon region he telegraphed for information. M. Gentil replied that everything was going on well, and that the colony was in a flourishing condition. In conclusion he added that the caoutchouc crop had been exceptionally abundant in the Begoudou and Lakho regions. Now there are no such places as Begoudou and Lakho, and those persons in the colony who knew about this fantastic telegram were perfectly astounded."

First Envelope.

The first envelope ever made is deposited in the British museum.